

1. IIA. CENTRAL SECTION
2. DIV. IIA.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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ASHBY-DE LA ZOUCH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

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For the Year ending

31st December, 1936.



ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(1). *Medical Officer of Health (part time):*

THOMAS FORSYTH,

M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Glas.) (Camb.)

(2). *Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (Full time):*

GEORGE E. MARLOW,

M.Inst M. & Cy.E., Certif. R.S.I.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending 31st December, 1936.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary State of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1936.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, 6,190 acres.

Resident Population, 1936, R.G.'s estimate, 5,922.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,707.

Rateable Value, £32,949.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £127 4s. 0d.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, of which the chief industries are :—Agriculture, Coalmining, Earthenware and Brickmaking.

No particular industry or occupation was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population during the year.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS—				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	....	....	82	35	47
Illegitimate	....	....	....	3	2	1
				<hr/> 85	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 48

Birth Rate = 14·95 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Birth Rate, 1936 = 14·8 per 1000 population.

STILL BIRTHS—				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	....	....	8	4	4
Illegitimate	....	....	....	0	0	0
				<hr/> 8	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4

Still Birth Rate = 86·02 per 1000 total (live or still) Births
or Still Birth Rate = 1·4 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Still Birth Rate, 1936 = 0·61 per 1000 population.

Deaths. Total 69. Males 41. Females 28.

Death Rate = 12·1 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Death Rate, 1936 = 12·1 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—				Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.	
				Ashby U.D.	England and Wales, 1936.
(1)	From Sepsis	....	0	Nil	1·34
(2)	From Other Causes	....	0	Nil	2·31
					<hr/>
					3·65

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	....	....	3	2	1
Illegitimate	....	....	....	0	0	0
				<hr/> 3	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 1

The Infantile Mortality Rate = 35·29 per 1000 live Births.

England and Wales Infantile Mortality Rate, 1936 = 59·0 per 1000 live Births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants=36·5 per 1000 Legitimate live Births.

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants=Nil per 1000 Illegitimate live Births.

During the year 1936, Deaths occurred from the following Diseases :—

Measles (all ages)	....	....	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	0
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	....	....	0

Causes of Death in 1936:—

Diseases	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	2	4
Other Tuberculosis	0	1	1
Cancer	4	2	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	4	2	6
Heart Disease	13	13	26
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1	2
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	0	4
Appendicitis	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	0	3	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5	0	5
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	1	1	2
Other Violence	1	0	1
Other Defined Diseases	3	2	5
	41	28	69

The chief causes of Death in 1936 were :—Heart Disease 26, Cancer 6, Cerebral Haemorrhage 6, Tuberculosis 5.

Compared with 1935 :—Heart Disease 14, Cancer 6, Cerebral Haemorrhage 5, Tuberculosis 2.

Section B—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals.

A (1) FEVER.—Hospitals for the treatment of Infectious Diseases are provided by the Combined Leicestershire Hospitals Committee. The nearest hospital to your area is at Markfield (54 beds).

(2) Smallpox.—Hospitals are provided at Snarestone and Syston by the Leicestershire County Council.

B (1) Tuberculosis.—The County Sanatorium at Markfield with 126 beds is available for the treatment of Tuberculosis. There is also a block (8 beds) at Melton Isolation Hospital for advanced cases.

(2) MATERNITY.—The Ashby Cottage Hospital is available for Maternity Cases and is situated in your area. It is adequately equipped for this purpose. Institutional treatment is also provided by the Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital and by Leicester Royal Infirmary.

The Ashby Infirmary under the supervision of the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council which was situated in your area was closed down during the year and the patients are now sent to the New Public Assistance Institution at Market Bosworth.

The County Council have arranged for the service of consultants in serious Puerperal Cases.

Hospital provision is made at Markfield Isolation Hospital for cases of Puerperal Fever.

(3) CHILDREN.—Institutional treatment is available at Leicester Royal Infirmary, Loughborough Infirmary and Ashby Cottage Hospital. The Sanatorium at Markfield provides for treatment for children suffering from Tuberculous Disease.

(4) OTHER.—Provision is made at the Children's Convalescent Home at Woodhouse Eaves for delicate and ill-nourished children from 3 to 5 years.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) Infectious Cases are removed in ambulances provided by the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals Committee.

(b) Non-Infectious Cases are provided for by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Most of the collieries provide ambulances for accident cases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES are provided by the County Council.

A MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE CENTRE is held weekly in the Baptist Church Room, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

A SCHOOL AND ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC is held at Bridge Road, Coalville.

A VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

GENERAL NURSING is provided in the homes by the District Nurse provided by the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Nursing Association. Infectious cases are not attended by the District Nurse.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS. These are provided for in the County Council Laboratory, Leicester.

Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.—Water is supplied by the Swadlincote and Ashby Joint Water Board. The supply of water has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity during the year. No extensions have been made during the year but it is proposed to extend the water main to supply the whole of the village of Blackfordby and the houses adjoining the Leicester Road, New Packington, in the near future.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—There have been no complaints of pollution during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—A scheme for the extension of the sewer in Tamworth Road and Willesley Lane has been approved.

Number of Cesspools in District at the end of 1936	....	152
Number of Cesspools abolished during the year	....	0

The Sewage Disposal Works at Packington and at Willesley are acting efficiently.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Total number in the District at end of 1936 :—

(1) Privies, 84. (2) Pail Closets, 46. (3) W.C.'s, 1017.

The number of Privies and Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system during the year was 6.

SCAVENGING.—House refuse is collected weekly by Council workmen with a covered motor lorry and carted to tips where it is deposited in layers about 2 feet 6 ins. deep and covered with earth about 9 inches in depth.

Earth Closets and Privies are emptied at night by Council workmen and the contents are carted on to suitable land and ploughed in.

Ashpits are emptied at regular intervals and the contents are treated in the same manner as house refuse.

Cesspools are emptied regularly by the Council workmen and the contents are carted to suitable land and ploughed in.

A scheme for the scavenging of the village of Blackfordby which was taken into the Urban District on April 1st, 1936, has been adopted and the removal of house refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and ashpits is now carried on by a contractor under the Council's surveyor in a manner similar to the rest of the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—Total number of complaints received during the year was 21. 818 inspections were made for all purposes. The number of premises visited was 677. 240 defects or nuisances were discovered. 322 notices were served, 254 informal and 68 formal. 223 defects were remedied after service of notices. No summonses were issued.

Factory and Workshops' Act, 1901.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

Premises.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Prosecutions.
Factories	9	4	Nil.
Workshops	12	6	Nil.
Workplaces	8	2	Nil.
	<hr/> 29	<hr/> 12	<hr/> Nil.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	No. of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	5	5	Nil.	Nil.
Structural repairs	4	3	Nil.	Nil.
Other defects	4	3	Nil.	Nil.
	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 11	<hr/> Nil.	<hr/> Nil.

Smoke Abatement.

Four Smoke Nuisances were dealt with during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye Laws and Regulations.

There are no underground sleeping rooms.

There is one Common Lodging House. Two inspections were made during the year. The general conditions are satisfactory.

There are no Living Vans in the district.

There is one offensive trade (Soap Works). Four inspections were made. The general conditions are satisfactory.

Schools.

All the Schools are supplied by water from the Public Main, and with the exception of Blackfordby C. of E. School all are on the Water Carriage System.

The sanitary conditions of the Schools are satisfactory.

Section D.—Housing.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:—

1.	(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	296
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose....	460
2.	(a)	Number of Dwelling Houses included under sub-head 1, (above) which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated Regs, 1925	210
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose....	264
3.		Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
4.		Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	64

II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	24
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

1.	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	42
2.	Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	38
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

1.	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
2.	Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	9
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act, 1930 :—

1.	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
2.	Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

1.	Number of separate Tenements or Under-ground Rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	None
2.	Number of separate Tenements or Under-ground Rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the Tenement or Rooms having been rendered fit	None

7 Houses were erected at Westfield Estate, Burton Road, during the year, to re-house families displaced by Clearance and Demolition Orders.

35 New Houses were erected by private enterprise.

IV.—Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding:—

(a)	1.	Number of Houses Overcrowded at end of year	....	....	....	....	37
	2.	Number of Families dwelling therein	....				40
	3.	Number of Persons dwelling therein	....				187
(b)		Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	....				37
(c)	1.	Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	....	....	....		1
	2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases					6
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling Houses have again become Overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding	....				Nil
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to Overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	....	....	....	....	Nil

Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

RETAIL PURVEYORS.—There are 29 on the Register. 14 Inspections were made of their premises. 10 contraventions were found and 8 remedied.

PRODUCERS (including Producers who retail their own milk).—There are 35 on the Register. 28 Inspections were made of their premises. 24 contraventions were found and 21 were remedied. 8 required cleansing and 6 required structural alterations.

THE MILK (Special Designations) ORDERS, 1923 and 1936

- 4 Licenses have been granted.
 - 2 to retail Accredited Milk.
 - 1 to retail Pasteurised Milk.
 - 1 to produce Pasteurised Milk.

The number of Milch Cows in the district is 546.

(b) Meat, etc.

Part of one carcase (156 lbs.) was condemned for Tuberculosis and destroyed.

Slaughter Houses.	In January, 1936.		In December, 1936.	
Registered	5	....	5
Licensed	1	....	1

24 Inspections of these Slaughter Houses were made, with 36 Inspections of Meat at the time of slaughter.

There is no Public Abattoir. There are no Meat Stalls and no approval has been given to meat marking.

22 Inspections were made of Meat Shops and Meat Stores, etc., 3 contraventions were found and remedied.

Of places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale, 12 Inspections were made. 2 contraventions were found and remedied.

36 lbs. of Corned Beef and 1 tin of Prawns were condemned and destroyed.

Section F.—Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring during 1936:—

Diseases	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	16	12	0
Diphtheria	8	8	0
Pneumonia	.... 1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	2	2	0
	—	—	—
	27	22	0

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified during 1936.

Age Distribution of Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Puerperal Fever
Under 1	0	0	0	0
1—2	0	0	0	0
2—3	0	0	0	0
3—4	4	0	0	0
4—5	1	0	0	0
5—10	6	6	0	0
10—15	4	2	1	0
15—20	0	0	0	0
20—35	0	0	0	2
35—45	1	0	0	0
45—65	0	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0
	16	8	1	2

Comparison of the Case Rates for Ashby Urban District, 1936, with the corresponding Case Rate for England and Wales, 1936, per 1000 population.

Diseases.	Ashby Urban District.	England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	.... 2·81 per 1000	2·53 per 1000
Diphtheria	.... 1·40 „	1·39 „

The chief feature with regard to Infectious Diseases during the year was an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, consisting of 16 cases occurring during the period of January to May.

All the cases were in children between the ages of 3 to 14 years, except one in an adult over 40 years of age.

The type of this disease continues to be mild, and no deaths occurred.

No use was made of the “Dick Test.”

DIPHTHERIA.—8 cases occurred in the period of June to August. All the cases were in Children of School age. No Deaths occurred.

No use was made of the “Shick” test or of artificial means of Immunisation.

Antitoxin is provided under the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910.

INTERPERAL FEVER.—Two cases were notified on the same day from the Maternity Ward of the Ashby Cottage Hospital. No deaths occurred.

CANCER.—During 1936, 6 deaths were attributed to this disease. 4 in Males and 2 in Females. This is the same number as in the previous year.

Whooping Cough and Measles were not prevalent during the year, and no deaths were caused by these diseases.

Tuberculois.

New Cases and Mortality during 1936.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
25—	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
35—	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
45—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	1

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935, or under the Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 62.

All the deaths from Tuberculosis occurring during the year had been notified prior to death.

Two well-equipped Parks (14 acres in all) presented by the late Sir Joseph Hood, Bart., provide for the open air recreations of the Community. In the larger Park, an Open-air Swimming Bath is provided. The water in this Open-air Bath is changed fortnightly and the Bath is cleansed with "Chloros." There is a constant stream of clean water running through the bath, and the water is chlorinated regularly.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr. G. E. Marlow, the Sanitary Inspector for his very valuable assistance. Many of the details of this report are taken from his Annual Summary.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FORSYTH,

M.O.H.





